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Message Text

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62
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 /032 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:GHUMPHREY:RVC
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
CU/EE:MR. PRICE
---------- 127093
P 012344Z HAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 102447

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, UR, CVIS

SUBJECT: SOVIET VETERANS DELEGATION VISIT TO US

REFS: A) STATE 97625; B) MOSCOW 5978 (VISAS EAGLE/SPLEX)

1. SOVIET EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED SOVIET SIDE'S WILLINGNESS TO LET SOVIET VETERANS VISIT TO US SLIP BEYOND PROPOSED MAY 7 ARRIVAL DATE, WHICH WE HAD TOLD EMBASSY ON APRIL 26 (REFTEL A) WAS NOT PRACTICAL. WE ASSUME THAT SOVIET VETERANS DELEGATION WILL NOT NOW PURSUE VISA APPLICATIONS (REFTEL B) WITH ETD OF MAY 7. MAIN US VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS ARE OF COURSE NOT PREPARED TO RECEIVE A SOVIET DELEGATION ON MAY 7.

2. IN CONVEYING AGREEMENT TO SEEK ALTERNATE DATE AFTER MAY 7, SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER EXPRESSED HOPE (WHICH WE DID NOT ENCOURAGE) THAT US VETERANS DELEGATION COMING TO USSR FOR V-E CELEBRATIONS COULD BRING CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR DATE AND PROGRAM OF RETURN VISIT. WHILE US DELEGATION IS UNPREPARED TO PRESENT SUGGESTIONS AND HAS NO MANDATE TO NEGOTIATE A RETURN VISIT FOR SOVIET VETERANS, VISIT WILL
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PROVIDE USEFUL IDEAS FOR HOSTING SOVIETS IN US. WE
EXPECT TO MAKE GOOD USE OF DELEGATION'S SUGGESTIONS
IN ENCOURAGING AMERICAN HOST ORGANIZATIONS TO ORGANIZE
APPROPRIATE PROGRAM FOR SOVIET DELEGATION VISIT HERE,
AND WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH SOVIET EMBASSY REGARDING
THIS FOLLOWING MAY DAY HOLIDAYS. FYI. DEPARTMENT (CU)
PLANS TO AUTHORIZE PARTIAL IV GRANTS TO SOVDEL TO
COVER TRAVEL WITHIN US. OTHER COSTS IN US TO BE COVERED
BY US VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, VETERANS GROUPS, VISITS, WORLD WAR II
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE102447
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GHUMPHREY:RVC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750154-0127
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750592/aaaagpai.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 97625, 75 MOSCOW 5978
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <10 Jun 2003 by MorefiRH, INA>; RELEASED <19 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971007
Subject: SOVIET VETERANS DELEGATION VISIT TO US
TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006